Family Planning Programme

559. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many States Family Planning Programme targets are not achieved within the contemplated period; and

(b) if so, the action or steps Government have taken/proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) From 1 st April, 1996 the Family Welfare Programme is being implemented all over India on the basis of Target Free Approach. Keeping in view the shortcomings of the target oriented approach followed earlier, the Department of Family Welfare has adopted the decentralized participatory planning approach based on identification of community needs.

(b) Does not arise.

Availability of AIDS drugs

560. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that AIDS drugs are not affordable; and

(b) the steps taken to make such drugs available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, Government is providing anti-retroviral drug, Nevirapine to HIV positive pregnant women for prevention of parent to child transmission. For post exposure prophylaxis access among health workers in public sector hospitals, anti-retroviral drugs are being supplied through States AIDS Control Societies.

Government have waived excise duty on ARV drugs to make them affordable to HIV/AIDS patients. State Governments have also been requested to exempt these drugs from sales tax & other duties.

Government have also taken initiative to dialogue with the Pharmaceutical industry, producing anti-retroviral drugs in India to find out the modalities to reduce the prices of anti-retro viral drugs.